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March 17, 2000  
Contact: Pamela Gregg  
gregg@udayton.edu

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## NEWS RELEASE

### UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON'S 2000 MIRYAM AWARD RECOGNIZES BARBARA FARRELLY'S SERVICE TO STUDENTS

DAYTON, Ohio — For her service as a role model for women on campus as well as her commitment to her students in and beyond the classroom, Barbara Farrelly has been selected to receive the University of Dayton's 2000 Miryam Award.

The Miryam Award, given annually to the individual, group or organization that has made a significant effort to enhance the climate for women at UD, will be presented to Farrelly at 5:15 p.m. Monday, March 27, in the Kennedy Union Torch Lounge. The presentation will follow a prayer service at 4:30 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus.

"The idea for the award came from a group of people who were looking for ways to make the University more inclusive for women," said Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C., director of the Center for Social Concern, which established the award in 1996. It's named with the Hebrew word for Mary and carries a \$500 stipend.

Farrelly, a lecturer in the English department and a resident of Oakwood, received her bachelor of arts degree at Good Counsel College (now Pace University) in New York in 1965, where she served briefly as dean of admissions and registration. She earned a master of arts degree at UD in 1969 and has been an instructor of English on campus since, with the exception of six years — in the late 1980s and early 1990s — that she served as the academic coordinator for UD's athletic department.

Bramlage said Farrelly's nominators stressed her personal commitment to students in and beyond the limits of the classroom and cited her as an exemplary role model for women.

Students and faculty nominators also noted Farrelly's ability to be a gentle but firm disciplinarian, providing "a kick in the rear to get one going and then endless support to keep one going."

"I can think of no better role model for women in the 21st century," wrote Barbara

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De Luca, associate professor of educational administration. "Barbara is a sensitive, analytical, candid, honest, intelligent and tenacious woman who remains calm, rational and methodical in the face of adversity. Above and beyond all this, Professor Farrelly is willing to share all of her exemplary qualities with her students and colleagues. Her unselfishness is unlimited."

Farrelly said she was genuinely pleased with the kudos bestowed by her peers and students, but downplayed her role in others' successes.

"I'm sort of like the black cat who crosses a person's path — people often believe that whatever happens to them next is somehow the responsibility of the cat's passing," Farrelly said. "I am glad the people who nominated me feel I was helpful to them, but my being where they needed me was probably pure coincidence."

"It's most important that any one of us who works with young people — especially young women — makes sure these young people see us as individuals who do not spend time letting negative things attach themselves to us. I really try to help all people, male and female, find within themselves whatever they need to get to the top of the ladder rather than invite them to sit on the bottom rung with me while I recount the real or perceived problems that plague women. When one is an educator, one really should remember that the students are the point to everything we do, so personal achievement will more often than not be achievement in others. That is beyond rewarding."

Farrelly, who is married to James Farrelly, professor of English at UD, said their children, Mark and Ann, are the most deserving recipients of the award.

"Without their incredible generosity, I could not have been available for students all these years," she said. "They happily allowed thousands of students to share their parents in ways that might have sent other children into therapy. They never minded when students phoned at all hours of the night or when they knocked on the door in the evening to get help with studying. They could have resented the hours we spend at the University, but they seemed to understand that education is about a lot of things beyond the classroom."

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For media interviews, call **Barbara Farrelly** at (937) 229-3456 and **Sister Nancy Bramlage, S.C.**, at (937) 229-2576.